Saint Louis Audubon Society

VOLUME 56, NUMBER 4 NOVEMBER, 1989

CALENDAR

GENERAL MEETINGS

Webster Groves Christian Church: Lockwood Rd. at SW corner of Berry Rd.

WILDLIFE ADVENTURE FILMS - FRIDAY 8 PM

23 Feb 90 Underwater Adventures, New Zealand and Red Sea; Dick Massey.

23 Mar 90 Hidden Worlds of the Big Cypress Swamp; Richard Kern.

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS WITH LOCAL SPEAKER & NATURE PROGRAM - FRIDAY 8 PM

19 Jan 90 Biotechnology in Our Future; Monsanto Staff.

20 Apr 90 Reintroduction of Peregrine Falcon in St. Louis; Raptor (RRPP) Center Staff.

24 Aug 90 (To Be Announced)

AUDUBON NATURE CENTER EVENTS

West on I-44 (10 mi. past I-270) to Lewis Rd. exit; 1-mi. on Lewis Rd. to Center. 2nd Sunday programs start at 1:30PM (Open House 11AM - 3PM)

10 Dec 89 Peace Corps Experience in Fiji Islands; Katherine & Oliver Siegmund

14 Jan 90 No Program - Open House if roads are clear.

11 Feb 90 Infectious Waste: Threat to Public Health?; Ron Darling (See Article on Page 3)

11 Mar 90 Birding Techniques & Equipment; Audubon Staff.

8 Apr 90 Storytelling; Kathryn Lodwick

13 May 90 Open House for Mother's Day

10 Jun 90 Program to be determined

8 Jul 90 " " " "

12 Aug 90 " " " "

NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP EVENTS

Monday 7:45PM; Oak bend Library, 842 S. Holmes, Oakland (One block north of Big Bend and I-44)

4 Dec 89 How to Copy or Enlarge Slide Images Paul Bauer

5 Feb 90 To Be Announced Walter Liddell

5 Mar 90 How To Put a Book Together Tom Johnson

BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

BOARD MEETINGS

1st Tue. 7:30PM Oct. through Mar. at Glendale City Hall, 424 N. Sappington Rd., Apr. through Sep. at Audubon Educational Center, Lewis Rd.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

2nd Tue. 7:30 PM call Mary Lou Miller, VP of Education for agenda and directions, 389-3969.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

3rd Tue. 7:30 PM call Bill Salsgiver, 225-1490, for agenda and meeting location.

BIRDING FIELD TRIPS

All near St. Louis. Coaching and instruction for all levels. Call Paul Bauer at 921-3972 if you need further information. Bring binoculars, bird book; dress for field conditions/season.

1. Busch Wildlife Area. 3 Mar 90 (Sat), 7 Apr 90 (Sat). 8 AM. 1 mi. S. of US-40 on Hwy 94. West on Hwy "D" to entrance; pass HQ area, go through gate to parking lot by first lake.
2. Marais Temps Clair Wildlife Area. 17 Mar 90 (Sat) 8AM. From I-70 take Hwy 94 N. through St. Charles to Hwy "H". Take Hwy "H" then turn left on Island Rd. Go under railroad overpass and turn left on next road to small HQ building and parking. (BEST: Oct-Dec; Feb-May; for best views of rails in spring, arrive at sunrise).
3. HORSESHOE LAKE STATE PARK. 17 Feb 90 (Sat) 8AM. East from St. Louis on I-55/70 to Hwy 111. N. on 111 to park entrance at concession stand. (BEST: year round; waterfowl, shore birds)
4. FOREST PARK WOODS. 22 Apr 90 (Sun), 6 May 90 (Sun), 8AM. Park behind Art Museum, meet at edge of woods. (BEST: Apr-May)

CALENDAR CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

WHAT'S INSIDE

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- I Got 600!, page 3.
- Paper or Plastic?, page 5.
- Winter Photography, page 8.

FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

by David Tylka

Committees are the life blood of an organization, and the St. Louis Audubon Society committees are running strong. For many years, most actions and decisions of our organization have come directly from the board of directors, with little or no input from our general members. But after years of dormancy, we now have committees that will meet monthly throughout the year! The Education Committee meets the second Tuesday of each month, and the conservation committee meets on the third Tuesday of each month. The Education Committee has rallied around the bimonthly nature newspaper for schoolchildren called Audubon Adventures and has obtained some funds to bring this fabulous publication to 173 St. Louis area classrooms this school year. Second Sunday Nature programs have been planned through the summer of 1990 at our Education Center. The Conservation Committee has developed working relationships with managers of local wildlife areas, and have contributed input into area management plans. This committee has also studied various conservation issues and proposals and offered comment on behalf of our chapter, as well as distributing conservation materials at events such as the Raptor Open House. There is one very notable exception to the aforementioned generalization about committee dormancy -- the Photographic Committee or section. For as many years as I can remember, this committee has met monthly through the non-summer months and historically has been the most active facet of the St. Louis Audubon Society. Their activities continue this year with photography program meetings planned on the first Monday of each month through next May.

Other committees are stirring. The recently-completed membership survey has served as the spoon to get interested people together in one pot. During the summer, the library committee formulated library priorities and categorized most of our chapter's books. In late August, the Newsletter Committee held a meeting to upgrade the format. During October, the House and Grounds Committee held a meeting at the Education Center, toured the facilities, and is now in the process of formulating facility needs for our chapter. A Membership Committee meeting is now on the horizon.

Combine these committee activities with general membership meetings, the wildlife film series, and chapter fields trips and you can't help but wonder, how can we keep track of what's happening? Besides the "what's", questions of "where" and "when" also come up. Our Board of Directors quickly decided that we needed to tabulate all of this information into a chapter calendar of events, and we began gathering information. Paul Bauer volunteered to sort out all of this information and organize it into a one-page St. Louis Audubon Activity Log consisting of lists, tables, and maps. This log is just the thing you need to stick under all those idle refrigerator magnets. A copy of the log is included in this newsletter to help you plan for the upcoming months. Many thanks to Paul for getting the Log together. And many thanks to all of those committee people who are getting involved and causing all of this wonderful confusion of activity. Anyone wanting to add to the confusion of their choosing, please contact the appropriate committee chairperson(s):

Education	Mary Lou Miller	389-3969
Conservation	Bill Salsgiver	225-1490
Photography	Al Lodwick	968-8072
Programming	Karen Haller	227-5693
Library	Paul Bauer	921-3972
Newsletter	Blaine Ulmer	966-5425
House & Grounds	Jerry Miller	389-3969
Membership	Katherine Chambers	863-9346

And a well-deserved tip-of-the-hat goes to Bill Salsgiver for computerizing the final tallies of the 190 people who completed our membership survey and for generating committee lists for our chairpeople to draw from. Who won the drawing for the Charles Schwartz eagle print by having her completed survey form draw out of the box at the last membership meeting? Cheryl Morrow of St. Louis. Congratulations Cheryl!

My last item to bring up concerns the hard plastic cups that were given away at the National Audubon Society Convention in September. Registrants were issued one of these cups and told to bring it with them to use at all coffee breaks and on all field trips (a few glass cups were available for the forgetful). Why the attempt at behavior modification and the inconvenience? Paper cups deplete our forests and create waste. Polystyrene foam (PSF) products are not biodegradable and are a major contributor to litter. Chloroflourocarbons which have been used in the manufacture of PSF degrade the ozone layer. Conservation is wise use, and our national organization deserves some accolades for this effort. Imagine how many PSF foam cups that a thousand people could go through during a week long conference.

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GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING "BIOTECHNOLOGY"

There will be a general membership meeting of the St. Louis Audubon Society on Friday, January 19, 1990 at 8:00 PM. The meeting will be held at the Webster Groves Christian Church located at Lockwood and Berry Road. Along with the regular committee reports, there will be a slide show on Biotechnology. This relatively new branch of science holds great potential to help in the reduction of the environmental contamination caused by the widespread use of pesticides and herbicides, as well as other uses. The presentation will be made by a representative of Monsanto which, as a company, is actively in this type of research. This will be a unique opportunity to hear about this exciting new field of research from people involved on a day-to-day basis.

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I GOT 600!

by Blaine Ulmer

If it's safe to assume that anyone reading this article has an interest in birds, I will further assume that some readers know what "I got 600" means. To end the suspense for those not familiar with the game of birding, it means I have now seen 600 species of birds north of the U.S. - Mexico border and latitude of that border where it meets the Pacific Ocean. The key word here is "species" with no mention of quantity. If you see 30 pigeons perched on a statue, you can count only one species.

What's magic about 600? Nothing! It suggests that I have probably seen three-quarters of all the species that might exist in that zone. I hasten to state that I am not an avid birder. I got interested during the "Great Depression". I guess there wasn't much going on; so I looked at birds. I have been interested ever since, but low key. As a matter of fact, I have had 597 birds for several years and just recently decided to go for 600 because it sounds better than 597. Notice I said "had 597 birds". More birding jargon. While I had seen 597 bird species, never have I possessed them. If you are with a group of birders, it is not unusual to hear one of the more aggressive ones call out something like, "I have a bobolink at 10:00 o'clock". Unless you can see the caller, it may take you some time to figure out where 10:00 o'clock is and chances are the bobolink has now flown. If you are fortunate enough to see it, however, you too may now claim to "have" a bobolink. See how it works?

I will press on about number 600. Janet and I had talked of a trip to the northwest for several years, but something would come up to change our plans. After each of us had a malady or two recently we decided that if we were to do this trip, it might be a good idea to get at it. Which we did this fall. Since we were going to such a variety of places, we were to drive over 7500 miles. Real togetherness! We planned to see friends along the way and even signed up for an Elderhostel in British Columbia (a further clue to our ages). In addition, I wanted to check out such well known national wildlife refuges as: Seedskadee, Red Rocks Lake, Kootenai, Nisqually, Willapa, Klamath Lake, etc. I also expected to get some sensational photos of the mountains and the Pacific coastline. Oh yes, and get my 600th bird.!

My homework indicated I should have several good opportunities for these birds. I would have a number of chances for Great Gray Owls (saw none) and Sharp-tailed Sandpipers (zip again). Things looked up a bit as I got the Crested Mynah in downtown Vancouver, which is about the only place to find it in North America, but still I had two to go. Fortunately, I had brought along my ABA Rare Bird Alerts for various states. As the large-nosed gentleman on TV says "Don't leave home without it." In Oregon I learned that a Yellow-Billed Loon had been seen near Bandon. This became number 599, and was a bonus since it had no business being that far south so early in the fall. The hotline to California indicated that a King Eider Duck had been seen around Point Reyes for some time. What a neat bird for my 600th! Except it didn't work out that way. At the Point Reyes visitor center I asked about the King Eider, and got no help, but good directions to the Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory. There I got directions to the area where the King Eider had been seen and the "oh, by the way" information that the Nuttall's Woodpecker had been seen at the Visitor Center. I could have played cool and casually remarked that I wondered if it might be around, but the fact is I never even thought of that bird. Back to the Visitor Center we went and, thanks to the Acorn Woodpeckers chasing the poor critter all over the back 40, we saw it and it became number 600. I have known people who had a T-shirt made with their 600th bird on it, and I might have done the same had my 600th been a King Eider, but not Nuttall's Woodpecker. I do have some pride. We went on for the King Eider, even though it was no longer number 600. We went to the bay where it had been seen and found a group of birders just leaving. They assured me that they had seen it and that it was still out in the bay in front of me. I spent the next 30 minutes with my eye slowly oozing into the eye-piece of my telescope as I examined, intimately, every duck, loon, grebe, and gull and in sight. About the time I was thinking that I had been betrayed, a lady with a telescope came up and assured me (what, again?) that she had seen the King Eider. Furthermore, she said it was a 15 month-old male. (How could she have known that?) in molt-plumage and didn't look like any King Eider picture in any bird book. While we were talking, I swung my telescope about and saw a strange looking lone duck strolling casually down along the beach. I had the woman look at it and she said it was the King Eider. So, with the help of this stranger, I got number 601!

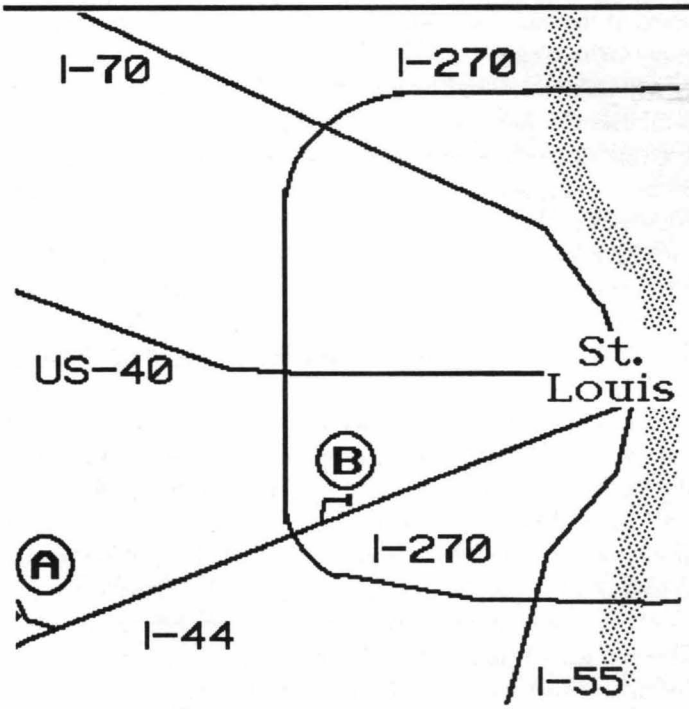
That's what makes it interesting. You make great plans that frequently go awry, but something even better occurs.

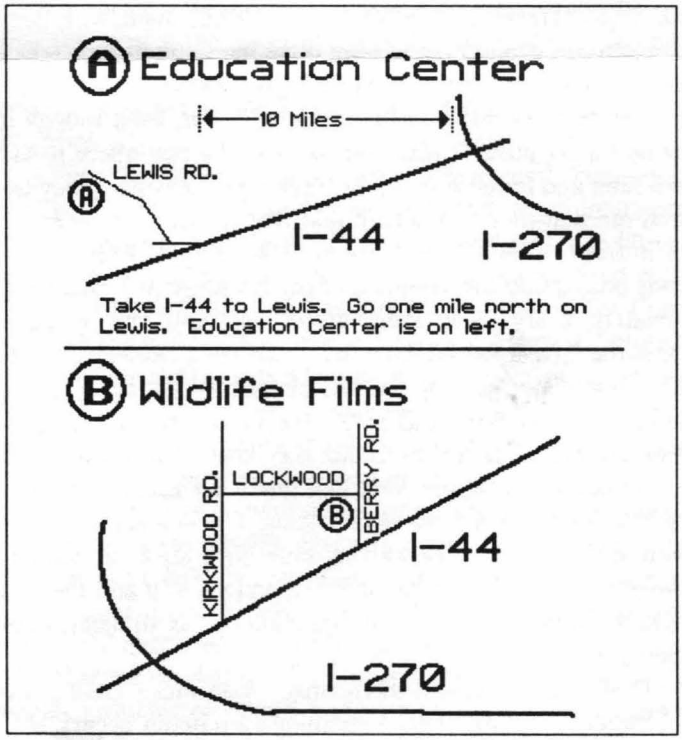
Get into birding. Be it low key, or high key, like some of the excellent birders we have in this area. It's good for your health, makes you more observant, and you meet some great people, even if they don't always tell you the truth. If you don't know who to contact, give me a call at 966-5455, and I will find someone for you. You are on your way to 600!

EAGLE DAYS 1990

The Missouri Department of Conservation is once again sponsoring Eagle Days at Clarksville, MO on Jan. 27 & 28 from 9 AM to 4 PM in the Apple Shed Theater at the south edge of town. The St. Louis Audubon Society will have an information booth in the Apple Shed Theater both days. This event, along with the Raptor Center Open House, is an excellent way to meet with the public and discuss topics of common interest, such as birds, wildlife, and various conservation issues. If you would be interested in working at our booth for a couple of hours, please contact Bill Salsgiver at 225-1490. If you don't want to work at the booth, we still urge you to attend the event for a guided eagle watch, educational displays, and a live Bald Eagle. Arrive early, dress warmly, and see you there!

GETTING TO AUDUBON SOCIETY EVENTS





CALENDAR

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SPECIAL EVENTS

St. Louis Audubon Annual Dinner 18 May 1990 (Fri). Eagles Live Again in Missouri - Jim. D. Wilson, Ornithologist for MDC. Regional Audubon Conference & Sandhill Cranes - Central Nebraska in Mid-March 1990.

SPECIAL BIRDING EVENTS

Several Christmas bird counts take place locally each year between Dec. 15 and Jan. 3. If you plan to take part bring extra-warm clothing, food and warm liquids; plan to be outdoors much of the day. Call Paul Bauer 921-3972 for dates, starting times and locations.

EAGLES & GULLS

20 Jan 90 Meet at 8AM at I-270 visitors center at Mississippi River. East on I-270 in north county to last exit in Missouri, exit Riverview Dr., turn left under I-270, and turn left again to visitors center. Dress warm! Bring scope and tripod if you own one.

EAGLES & GULLS

3 Feb 90 Meet 8AM at Alton Dam parking lot. East on I-270 in north county to Hwy 367. North on Hwy 367, across Missouri River, to point just south of bridge crossing Mississippi River; turn left into parking lot. Dress warm! Bring scope and lunch.

EARLY WATERFOWL

17 Feb 90 Horseshoe Lake State Park, Madison Co., IL. Meet 8AM at Hwy 111 entrance near concession stand. See instructions above for directions. Some water here never freezes; can be excellent for loons and early diving ducks.

WATERFOWL TOUR THROUGH ST. CHARLES

24 Feb 90 Meet 8AM at Alton Dam parking lot. See directions for 3 Feb trip above. We will visit six areas along the Mississippi River and Marais Temps Clair Wildlife Area. This can be the best date in year to see ducks; seeing 20 species is possible. Bring scope and lunch.

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GREETERS

Thank you to those who have agreed to be greeters at our meetings both at the Film Series, General Membership Meetings, and Education Center "Second Sunday" events. We do need more greeters. It's not a difficult job - just be host or hostess at these meetings, greeting people as they arrive, answering questions and/or finding answers (you don't have to have all the answers) and passing out literature as needed. Call Mary Lou Miller if you are interested in giving one evening or one Sunday of your time.

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PAPER OR PLASTIC?

by Debby Samac

The decision to have our groceries sacked in paper or plastic bags awaits you each time you go through the check-out. How do you make this decision? Does your choice make a difference? If you are concerned about the quality of our environment, this decision becomes more than just one of personal preference.

The environmental costs of producing paper and plastic bags is very high. Paper making pollutes water, releases dioxin, contributes to acid rain, and requires trees. Most brown bags are made from virgin paper without contributions from recycled paper. Much of our paper comes from trees grown in intensively managed plantations using non-renewable fossil fuel fertilizers. Plastic bags are made from fossil fuels and their manufacture also results in air and water pollution. However, producing a pound of plastic bags results in less pollution than producing a pound of paper bags.

Disposing of paper and plastic is also environmentally costly. Each American creates and average of 25 pounds of garbage per week including 9 pounds of paper and 1.5 pounds of plastic. Most of our garbage goes into landfills and we are rapidly running out of landfill space. In addition, leachate from landfills increases groundwater pollution. Paper is readily degraded by microorganisms in the soil. However, to degrade paper these organisms require oxygen and water which are often not found in tightly compacted landfills. Plastic, even thin plastic bags, do not degrade rapidly. In the average landfill, plastic requires 200-400 years to degrade. Recently, stores in the St. Louis area have switched to the "Enviro-Mate" plastic bag. This bag is made from photo-degradable plastic that deteriorates into smaller pieces of plastic after prolonged exposure to the ultra-violet rays of the sun. Buried in a landfill, these bags still take hundreds of years to decompose.

The single use and then disposal of either a paper or plastic bag is not environmentally sound. There are several alternatives. The best solution is to have your groceries sacked in your own reusable personal carrier, as do consumers in Europe. Similarly, you can reuse the supermarket's bags many times by taking a sack with you to the store. If you keep a supply in your car, you will never walk out without your bags. When the bags begin to wear out, they can be used one last time as a garbage bag. Recycling excess bags is another excellent alternative. There are now five recycling centers in the St. Louis area that accept waste-paper, including bags, junk mail, magazines, and packaging boxes - for recycling. In addition, the Dierburg's and Schnuck's supermarkets are testing the use of recycling bins for grocery bags. Bins have been installed at the Dierburg's in Mackenzie Pointe and Telegraph Plaza and at the Schnuck's in Kirkwood and Webster Groves. If you use the recycling centers fully, you will be able to recycle almost all of your garbage: newsprint, paper products, plastic jugs and bottles, glass bottles, and metal cans. A directory of recycling centers is available from the St. Louis County Department of Community Health, Waste Management Section at 854-6924. The St. Louis Audubon Society also has a supply of directories available at all functions.

Your decision on the type of grocery bag you use and how you choose to dispose of it does affect our world. By recycling, you can reduce landfill use, reduce pollution of air and water, and conserve natural resources.

What else can you do:

- encourage retailers to use recycled paper bags and paper products
- support legislation for mandatory recycling
- use recycled products at work and at home. A nifty catalog of recycled paper products is available from EarthCare Paper Company at 608 / 256-2522.

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HAVE A FAVORITE CONSERVATIONIST?

by Mary Lou Miller

If you have any suggestions for a recipient of the " Conservationist of the Year" award, please write or phone Gary Giessow at 3 Layton Terrace, St. Louis, MO 63124. phone: 994-7570. Gary will also take suggestions for other annual awards you might like to see given at our annual dinner (for example "Legislator of the Year"). His committee will be meeting in January, so get suggestions to him as soon as possible.

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SPRING BIRDATHON

by Mary Lou Miller

It's not too early to set aside some time in the spring for our annual birdathon. Eugenia Larson will start setting up early this spring. In case you are not acquainted with birdathons, you sign up people on your list who will designate a set amount of money (for example $.10 to $.25 per bird) for each bird you see during your outing. This birdathon will help fund Audubon Adventures in our schools in the 1990-91 school year. Half the money taken in goes directly for Audubon Adventures and half goes to the National Audubon Society to support production of Audubon Adventures - a truly worthwhile project. Eugenia single-handedly worked on this last year and raised $600 for the purchase of Audubon Adventures. Surely we can get more participation this year. Don't feel you can't participate because you are not a "birder". We will make it possible for you to accompany someone who is knowledgeable in birding, or you can stay home and count species at your own feeders. Give Eugenia Larson a call to sign up for this year's birdathon. Forms will be available later in the spring. Eugenia's phone number is 434-1190 at home.

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AUDUBON AUDIBLES

We are continuing to get an average of 3 calls on our message center line, 938-6123, per day. Some of the call subjects were:

- found a hawk near Chain of Rocks Water Plant - found owner and returned bird by the time we called them back.
- woodpecker problems - one lady said she lived in her home for 26 years and all of a sudden the woodpeckers were attacking the molding around her front door - what to do?
- membership information needed
- general questions about our activities
- sightings of birds
- identification of birds needed
- binocular questions
- who has bird seed for sale
- what do you have to do to provide water for birds during the winter?
- wanting to buy bird feeders - what kind should I buy
- general information about bird houses
- trying to get a hold of certain individuals in the St. Louis Audubon Society

Watch for more information on our March Second Sunday program at our Audubon Education center. There will be a Birding Techniques and Equipment Workshop that Sunday, March 11, 1990. Mark this day on your calendar now. We should be able to answer many of the above questions at this meeting.

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RAPTOR CENTER OPEN HOUSE

The Raptor Rehabilitation and Propagation Project recently held a successful open house at the Tyson Research Center. The St. Louis Audubon Society was allowed to participate by having a booth to hand out information. This was also a successful weekend for our Society in that we met, talked with, and distributed information to many of the 6,000 people in attendance. We extend thanks to the following members for working at the booth during the weekend event: Ralph Cook, Steve Hill, Nick Staten, Mark Peters, Maura Mackowski, Tom Bormann, Stephanie Kadrie, Katherine Chambers, Ron Darling, Mary Lou Miller, LaVerne Koyn, Debby Samac, and Mary Dueren. Along with being able to see the fabulous facilities at the Raptor Center, this was an excellent opportunity to become involved with our Society, as well as meet and talk to others with similar interests. Another event which offers a similar opportunity is the upcoming Eagle Days, put on by the Missouri Department of Conservation.

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ACID RAIN

While the administration and congress do appear to be serious about taking action against acid rain, the problem continues unabated. In October the states of Indiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Ohio, and Rhode Island had rainfall with a pH of 4.6 or below, which is at least 10 times more acidic than normal. Missouri averaged 5.3 for the month (5.5 is considered neutral for air). While our politicians continue their deliberate deliberations on this subject, we can help reduce power plant and automobile emissions of sulfur dioxide by:

Purchasing energy efficient appliances
Installing double (or better) pane windows
Using efficient florescent light bulbs.
Using mass transit or car pools.

ST. LOUIS AUDUBON SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Check the membership category desired: ____New ____Renewal

____Introductory/$20.00 ____Family/$38.00 ____Sustaining/$50.00
____Supporting/$100.00 ____Sr. Citizen/$21.00 ____Sr. Citizen Family/$23.00

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Send to:

Mrs. Katherine Chambers, Membership Chairman
St. Louis Audubon Society
7024 Forsyth
St. Louis, MO 63105

SPRING RIVER CONFERENCE

Save the weekend of March 16 - 18, 1990 for the Spring River conference held in Kearney, Nebraska. This is the time for the gathering of the Sandhill Cranes, waterfowl, and eagles along the Platte River. We are going to try and provide sharing of rides for this conference. If you are interested in this trip, please call Mary Lou Miller at 389-3969 (home) or 553-1429 (work). Information on this conference will be available next issue.

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TEACHER MATERIALS AVAILABLE

by Mary Lou Miller

An array of teaching materials are available through National Audubon Society's Educational Headquarters in Connecticut. Posters featuring Alaska Tundra, Tropical Rainforest, Coral Reefs, Rivers, and Birds make excellent visual teaching tools and also come with teacher/leader guides. A tape cassette of environmental folk songs with an illustrated song book is available for $17.50 and may be photocopied for students to use in class. For a complete price list and order form, contact Mary Lou Miller at 389-3969.

Looking for more interesting avenues to explore with students? David Stokes, educational specialist for National Audubon's Schlitz Center in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, has created *Reaching for Connection: Creative Ideas for Enhancing Educational and Interpretive Programs*. This booklet contains ideas for enhancing educational programs with fun teaching techniques to strengthen a student's yearning for learning. Everything from moving a group through a trail in an organized and productive manner to overcoming those pitfalls when everything goes wrong, are outlined in this 52-page illustrated booklet. The booklet sells for $5.50 (postage not included). For more information contact: Schlitz Audubon Center, 111 E. Brown Deer Rd., Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53217, phone: 414/352-2880.

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THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU

Thank you's go to Dawn Stellar and her girl scout troop for the pine cone goodies for the birds at our education center. These were put up and enjoyed by the many birds there. The girls worked hard making these, and we do appreciate their efforts.

Another thank you goes to Gary Giessow. Again this year, Gary is providing lodging at his Howard Johnson Motel for our Wildlife Film Series speakers. We appreciate this donation, and know that the speakers appreciate the convenient location and nice lodging while in our area.

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AUDUBON CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS

The Audubon Camp Scholarship Committee will be meeting in January 1990 to consider recipients for next summer's camp scholarships. Audubon camps are located in Wyoming, Maine, and Connecticut. Most camps are of one week duration. Our scholarships will pay all tuition and fees to the camp for one week. You must pay your own transportation to and from the camp. If you are a teacher or other educator, or know of someone who would like to receive an Audubon Camp Scholarship, you should send a letter, resume, and letters of recommendation (2 or 3) to Gary Giessow, 3 Layton Terrace, St. Louis, Missouri 63124.

Frieda Hill, a teacher in the St. Louis public schools who was unable to the Maine camp in 1989 because of a broken leg, will be given another chance to attend that camp in 1990.

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KUDOS TO TWO NEW BOARD MEMBERS

At the St. Louis Audubon Meeting in November, two new board members were elected to replace Jim Ernst and Cis Hager, both of whom felt they could no longer spare the time to attend meetings. We are grateful for the many services they gave, and are glad they will still help the chapter, even if they can't attend board meetings. Jerry Miller, former president, and present chairman of the grounds committee, will serve in Jim Ernst's place, and Vi Pinkerton will replace Cis Hager. Whenever anything needs doing at the center, Jerry is our first line of defense; be it plumbing, grass-cutting, fixing the answering machine, repairing screens, putting up lights, laying out trails, and so on ad infinitum. Of course, many others have helped, but he is undoubtedly given more of his time and energy than any other one person.

Vi Pinkerton and her husband Dennis recently moved here from Colorado, where they had been active in Audubon affairs. When they learned about our property on Lewis Road, they thought it a good place for week-end outdoor activities. They do enjoy the center on weekends, but have also become involved in the membership committee. When it was suggested that welcoming letters be sent to new members in order to increase participation in chapter activities, Vi offered to use her computer to take over this job. Each month the National Audubon Society sends a Chapter Update, containing lists of new members, renewals, transfers into and out of the chapter, name and address changes, and cancelled memberships. Since there are between twenty-five and one hundred twenty-five new members and transfers each month, writing welcome letters is no small undertaking. We are grateful that the Pinkertons can take time from their full-time jobs and their favorite hobby of hot air ballooning to help us in this way.

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The St. Louis Audubon Society
Box 263
Crescent, MO 63025

Officers 1989/90

President	Dave Tylka	296-1419
VP-Education	Mary Lou Miller	389-3969
VP-Conservation	Bill Salsgiver	225-1490
Treasurer	Dave Ulmer	394-1686
Secretary	Eugenia Larson	434-1190

Committee Chairpersons

Conservation	Bill Salsgiver	225-1490
Education	Mary Lou Miller	389-3969
Grounds	Jerry Miller	389-3969
Membership	Katherine Chambers	863-9346
Newsletter	Blaine Ulmer	966-5425
Photography	Al Lodwick	968-8072
Programs	Karen Haller	227-5693
Publicity	Jim Holsen	822-0410

Board of Directors

James Campbell	961-3236
Ron Coleman	458-3688
Ralph Cook	843-7720
Ron Darling	739-8775
Paul Denk	993-6628
Jim Houser	434-4896
James Hunt	968-8479
Lee Mason	427-6311
Mark Peters	296-9159
Vi Pinkerton	
William J. Toole	822-9143
William E. Wiese	965-2310

WINTER PHOTOGRAPHY

by Lee F. Mason

When Winter rolls around, too many photographers pack their camera gear away til spring. Winter offers some wonderful photographic opportunities., but there are certain precautions you want to take.

In below freezing temperatures film becomes brittle and has a tendency to break if advanced or rewound too quickly. When advancing the film in the cold do it slowly and carefully. And, if possible, do not rewind the film until you are inside and the camera has had a chance to warm up slowly. Keeping the camera inside your coat when not in use will prevent the film from becoming too brittle and will also help keep the batteries operational. Batteries lose their efficiency when cold.

Generally cold is not your camera's worst enemy in winter - moisture is. Do all you can to keep your equipment dry. A plastic bag in your coat pocket can be used to cover the camera in the event of a sudden rain or snowstorm. Rapid warming can cause internal condensation and result in camera damage, so when you come in from the cold leave the camera encased in the plastic bag until it warms up naturally.

A winter problem that bugs many photographers is improper exposure under snow conditions. The light meter in most of our cameras is calibrated to a medium tone. An expanse of snow with its bright reflection fools the meter and results in underexposed pictures. Many photographers simply open up one stop for good exposure of the snow expanse. Also, you can take a reading off the palm of your hand - if the same light is falling on your hand as on the subject AND OPEN UP ONE STOP - because the palm of your hand is about twice as bright as the average subject. If you come across a shot you really do not want to miss, your best bet is to bracket: take one exposure at the meter reading; one at one stop more open; and one stop closed down. Remember to keep a record of your exposures for future reference.

The leafless trees open much to view in the winter. So, if you pack your camera away when the snow comes, you are missing some great photographic opportunities!

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